

Application No. 09/919,561
Filed: July 31, 2001
TC Art Unit: 1774
Confirmation No.: 4967

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. - 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A natural feathered fiber thermal insulator which comprises ~~1 to 99~~ 50 to 90 weight % of a natural feathered fiber and ~~1 to 99~~ 10 to 50 weight % of a core sheath composite synthetic fiber as a binder ~~1 to 99 weight %~~, both percentages being relative to the total weight of the insulator.

5. (Currently Amended) The natural feathered fiber thermal insulator according to claim 4, wherein the core sheath composite synthetic fiber has a sheath portion made of a low melting point polyolefin and a core portion made of a high melting point synthetic resin.

6. (Canceled)

7. (New) A method of making a thermal insulation, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) degreasing and washing natural feathers with alcohol;
- (b) drying said natural feathers from step (a);
- (c) cutting said natural feathers from step (c) into 10 mm lengths;
- (d) providing a 1 to 99 weight % of a natural feathered fiber from step (c), wherein said weight percentage of natural feathered fiber is relative to the total weight of the insulation; and

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(e) adding to said step (d) a 1 to 99 weight % of a core sheath composite synthetic fiber as a binder, wherein said weight percentage of said synthetic fiber is relative to the total weight of the insulation, wherein the combination of said natural feathered fiber and said synthetic fiber provides thermal insulation.

8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said core sheath composite synthetic fiber has a sheath portion made of a low melting point polyolefin and a core portion made of a high melting point synthetic resin.

9. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein said natural feathered fiber is in an amount of 50 to 90 weight % and said synthetic fiber is 10 to 50 weight %.

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